

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Request for Personal Interview:

A telephonic interview with the Examiner is respectfully requested. Applicant's representative will contact the Examiner to set a mutually convenient date and time.

Regarding the Claims in General:

Claims 4-12 and 14-19 are now pending, claims 1-3 having previously been canceled. Claim 13 has been rewritten as new claim 19 to more clearly highlight a distinguishing feature of the invention and to improve the form thereof for examination. Claim 14 has been amended to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. The other claims remain unchanged.

Claim 19 recites more explicitly what was already at least implicit in claim 13 as previously presented, and has therefore not been narrowed for statutory purposes related to patentability. The amendment to claim 14 restores words inadvertently omitted when original claim 1 was rewritten and therefore claim 14 also has not been narrowed for statutory purposes related to patentability.

Regarding the Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112:

Claims 4-12 and 14-18 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112. It appears that several words contained in original claim 1 were inadvertently omitted when that claim was rewritten as new claim 14. The missing words have been restored by the amendment herein, and the word "centering" has been added to avoid a possible ambiguity. These amendments should overcome the rejection.

Regarding the Prior Art Rejection:

In the outstanding Office Action, claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kyta U. S. patent 3,106,759 (Kyta). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection as applied to claim 19 is respectfully solicited.

As now written, claim 19 reads as follows:

a base for placement at a tool;

a first boss projecting from the base ; and

a second boss projecting from the base and spaced apart on the base from the first boss;

the second boss comprising a trunk, a head connected to the trunk at a joint, and a groove located at the joint between the trunk and the head, wherein

the groove and the head are sized and configured to give the head a mechanical elasticity as compared to the remainder of the boss, whereby the head forms a gripping device on the second boss for directly connecting with the tool without the addition of any mechanical fastening element and without the addition of any material or adhesive element; and

the first and second bosses are generally right parallelograms in cross section.

Kytta does not disclose, teach or suggest a structure in which the groove and the head are "sized and configured . . . whereby the head forms a gripping device on the second boss for directly connecting with the tool without the addition of any mechanical fastening element and without the addition of any material or adhesive element". Kytta's device depends on wire 28 which effectively forms a wedge to retain the fastener in place.

Nor are the cross sections of the bosses in Kytta right parallelograms. Fig. 5 shows a top view of the part 38 (which the Examiner has called the base). The bosses, including the trunks and heads as claimed, are formed by curved projections 40, 42 merging into folded sheet portions 44 and 46 which form the legs, and which, in turn, merge into conical portions 26, referred to by the Examiner as the claimed head. It is not seen how any part of this structure can be deemed to have a cross-section in the form of a parallelogram.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by Facsimile to (571) 273-8300 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

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Signature

January 10, 2006
Date of Signature

LAH:lac

Respectfully submitted,

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